

The Advance-Titan

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Carter Uslabar / Advance-Titan

Jaylen Grant was slated to run in the Division III National Championship in Salem, North Carolina on March 14. Then COVID hit. The then-freshman sprinter was sent home and the meet he had been training for all season was canceled. Now Grant and the track team are back and training for a season that will be unlike anything they've ever seen before.

Prepping for a season of unknowns

By Cory Sparks
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As the UW Oshkosh track and field team prepares for indoor and outdoor seasons that may be filled with various unknowns, the team reflects on a year that was abruptly cut short by the rapid spread of COVID-19.

The team had its final indoor meet at the Wartburg College Final Qualifier on March 7 before some of its top runners traveled to Salem, North Carolina for a Division III National Champi-

onship that would never take place.

The event had been scheduled for March 14, and one of the school's new record-holders, then freshman Jaylen Grant, was among its qualifiers who had to immediately go home due to the dangers of the pandemic.

"Honestly, it was heartbreaking," sophomore Grant said. "For us to work so hard to get there, and for it to be canceled the night before was very hard on our whole team."

Upon coming back to school and attending partially in-per-

son classes this fall, the team has resumed practice together.

With the resumption of school operations at UW Oshkosh, some runners admire the fact that they can use the campus facilities to improve their performance.

"Last year, because with COVID, I didn't have very many places to lift and even run at some point," UW Oshkosh sophomore sprinter Kyra Huber said.

In terms of the group practices, the frequency of daily gatherings is consistent with what the team did last year. This provided the runners with

at least somewhat of a return to normalcy, and they're glad to be together doing what they love once again.

"We still practice every day per usual. It's nice to have something semi-normal in my schedule again," Grant said. "It's great to be in an atmosphere where we all are working toward the same goals."

Although it is a morale booster for the runners to see each other again while working toward a common objective, the

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Journey to sobriety not easy

By Jack Tierney
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The video showed grainy black and white images of a lifeless body lying on the ground as semitrucks and motorists passed by. White clouds of condensation blew from the officers' mouths as they moved like skilled professionals in the frozen winter night to save a life.

The radio calls of the dispatcher and the officers talking back and forth echoing "no pulse, no pulse,"



Farina

streamlined a feeling of intensity and fear into the viewer, as if you were right there watching a human-made disaster unfold.

On the night her fifth overdose almost became her last, the woman lying on the ground — Kristina Farina — only remembers how cold she was. She has no memory of the two officers administering two doses of Naloxone up her nose, effectively saving her life.

She watches the body cam video from her overdose now — two years later, two years sober and a completely different person than the strung-out woman with no pulse lying on the pavement. She watches it to remind herself how far she has come and how far she still must go. She smiles now, pushes away the tears and thanks her two daughters for being the constant reminder she needs to stay sober.

Breaking the ice

Kristina has been clean from her addiction to heroin, meth and alcohol since 2018, but the journey to sobriety has not been an easy one. Her addiction started in 2012. She was working construction, had been for years, and over the course of doing the hard physical labor that construction demands, she wore out the cartilage in her neck.

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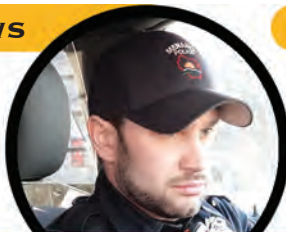
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OPINION



2020 FLAVORED COSTUMES

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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

The Cabinet expands hours for remainder of semester

By Carter Uslabar
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UWO’s on-campus food pantry, which first opened last February to combat food insecurity on campus, has extended its hours for the remainder of the semester.

The Cabinet will now operate from 9-4 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Although The Cabinet has expanded its hours, volunteers are still desired to continue expanding the hours of operation and to better serve the campus community.

The Cabinet was created in response to research done by UWO alumna Joy Evans with the goal of mitigating the effects of food insecurity on the UWO campus.

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

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

The most expensive meal plan is billed at \$1,850, and includes 200 meals and 300 Titan Dollars. The most affordable meal plan sits priced just over \$1,000, including 100 meals and 100 Titan Dollars, scarcely enough to eat one meal a day in a dining facility.

“Food insecurity is, in my opinion, such an underestimated issue, and it’s really a big deal,” Evans said last February. “It’s a big deal for this campus in particular.”

Due to the pandemic, The Cabinet was forced to modify and restrict in-person access, allowing only one student in at a time, but has now been able to expand its hours significantly since the semester’s beginning.

The Cabinet now has fresh fruit

available for students as well.

“We partnered with the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry, and they’ve been able to supply us regularly with food items to keep our shelves stocked for those who are using the pantry here on campus,” Tyler Klaver, Oshkosh Student Association (OSA) office manager said. “That’s one of the new things they were able to supply us with.”

Students can also request a pantry order online through The Cabinet’s page on the OSA website.

Students interested in volunteering at The Cabinet can contact OSA office manager Tyler Klaver or The Cabinet manager Kaitlyn Henry to learn more.

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FIXED: ‘Thank you for saving my life’

From page 1

The cartilage was so far worn that bone was touching bone. Sitting up and doing anything menial was painful for her.

Her doctor gave her a prescription for 130 Oxycodone pills. It only took two months for Kristina to become addicted to those little white pills; and once the doctor stopped supplying them, she had to become resourceful.

She began taking whatever drugs she could find, anything to numb the pain. She found a friend who could get her what she needed. She would travel throughout Northeast Wisconsin and down to Milwaukee looking for her next fix.

Her addiction took her away from her family who loved her — the way opioid addiction has taken tens of thousands of loved ones from their families all through the country — until the lessons she learned after that night in 2017 when she nearly died from her fifth overdose.

Family bonds

Kristina was raised just outside of Milwaukee in Hartford. Her father was a small business owner. She was the youngest of four children and had three older brothers.

In fifth grade, Kristina’s parents divorced. Her father, who she describes as nurturing but protective, took custody of Kristina. Kristina was OK with moving to her father’s house. Her father was her protector and when she speaks about him she smiles from ear to ear. But soon, her father’s protective nature became overbearing.

“My father was strict,” she said. “Very strict.”

He wouldn’t let her hang out with friends on the weekend. He wouldn’t let her wear the clothes she wanted to wear. He wouldn’t let her be expressive in the ways she wanted to be expressive.

So when high school came and Kristina started spending time with her mother again — going to high school one year at Oshkosh West High School and the next year in Hartford, where her father lived — she started hanging out with “stoners,” partying and doing all the things her father tried to stop her from doing.

When she turned 18 and became an adult, she recognized her freedom and went off the rails with partying, drinking and doing drugs.

She quit her two jobs and became a stripper at a club in Oshkosh. She started hanging around the crowd that gathers at a strip club and was introduced to a life of cocaine, sex and violence. Kristina needed to get out of Oshkosh. She went back to living with her father.

‘The lowest of the lows’

As the years passed, Kristina became a mother to two children.



Photos taken or provided by UW Oshkosh alumnus Michael Cooney and FIXED participants
Five years into her addiction, Kristina Farina’s body was limp, held into the driver’s seat by the seatbelt, moments from death by overdose from opioids when her life was saved by Deputy Nathan Dahm. She continued to use for another year before she finally got sober.

She also moved back to Winnebago County, spending time in Oshkosh and Fond du Lac.

She was five years into her addiction to opioids. It had been five years since the surgery that sparked her addiction. She was five years astray from her children.

She had just finished her night working at a printing shop in Oshkosh and met with her ex-boyfriend to get some drugs to cure her withdrawals.

They snorted the drugs on the side of the highway and were on their way back to Oshkosh. Kristina’s children were waiting for her to come home that night.

It didn’t take long for the powerful opioid to kick in. A truck driver noticed the car Kristina was riding in swerving in and out of the traffic lanes. The truck

driver called police and reported an erratic driver to the dispatcher. The dispatcher put out a call and authorities were on their way.

By the time Winnebago County Deputy Michael Huth pulled the car over, Kristina was in the fully sedated state of an overdose and was inching closer to death by the minute. Her head was hanging down and her seatbelt was the only thing keeping her upright in the vehicle.

Huth asked the driver what was wrong with Kristina and the driver said he didn’t know. Huth put out an emergency call to any deputy in the area. Deputy Nathan Dahm was in the area, coming from the south on Highway 41. As soon as Dahm arrived he went straight to Kristina.

“She was purple; she was dead,” he said.

He pounded on her chest with his knuckles to try to generate a reaction.

But Kristina was unresponsive. Dahm pulled her out of the car onto the frozen pavement of Highway 41. Dahm lifted Kristina up, but she was limp, her

limbs moving like a rag doll as her head rolled back and forth uncontrollably; passersby would have thought she was dead.

Dahm ordered a dose of Naloxone, a nasal-spray that counteracts the life-threatening effects of an overdose.

He administered one dose — no response.

He administered a second dose and yelled out her name.

“Kristina, wake up. Kristina, wake up,” he said.

In a split second, the drug took effect and Kristina’s pulse returned. She mumbled a word. She was still far from being in stable condition, however, and Dahm knew he needed to do more if she was going to make it. He called for paramedics and did everything he could to keep her alive.

The paramedics arrived and administered an IV, lifted Kristina onto a stretcher, loaded her in the ambulance and took her away. Dahm followed the ambulance to the hospital. When he arrived at Kristina’s room he was surprised by what he found.

“Kristina looked like a completely different person,” he said. Kristina was speaking, her eyes were wide open, and she was sitting upright.

The first words Kristina said to Dahm were, “Thank you for saving my life.”

The footage

Dahm’s supervisor saw the body cam footage and told Winnebago County Sheriff John Matz that he should also take a look. Matz knew he needed to do something about what he had witnessed. He called Kristina and asked her to come to his office. He wanted to show her what he had just seen.

Kristina, however, was still using. When the sheriff called her, she ignored the call. When she didn’t respond, Matz sent officers to do a welfare check at her house; but instead of answering the door, she hid. It took her two weeks to return his call.

Matz asked her to come in and view the tapes and she agreed, bringing her mom along for support. Watching the tape was an

emotional experience for Dahm, Matz, Kristina and her mother.

“Some people might have come in and said ‘Cool, I got to see myself dead,’ and gone on and continued using,” Matz said. “But Kristina was different. You could tell that she was really sorry and that she really cared.”

Kristina cried while she watched the video. She swore she wanted a new life, but continued to use for a year after.

“Wanting to change and changing are two different things,” Kristina said.

During that time, Matz periodically texted Kristina to check up on her. In the summer following her overdose, Matz texted Kristina and received a message from Kristina’s daughter.

“I’m sorry. My mom overdosed again,” the text read.

Matz was broken by the text. Although he never met Kristina’s daughters, he said it seemed like an extremely grown up individual was texting him, one who had seen her mother at her lowest before.

Not long after Kristina’s daughter responded to Matz’s text, Kristina arrived at the Winnebago County Jail after being caught with methamphetamine. Confined to a jail cell, Kristina realized it was time to give it up. She was ready to make a change.

She made an appointment to speak with the sheriff while she was in jail and asked him how she could get sober. Matz didn’t know. He cared about Kristina, however, and researched state-funded rehabilitation options and found Nova Counseling Services just half a mile away from the sheriff’s office and county jail.

He made an appointment for Kristina at 8 a.m. the day she was

to be released. Although that was not a required part of his responsibilities as sheriff, he said he did it because Kristina was someone’s daughter and he recognized that she had a disease. He knew she wanted to get better and he did what he could do to set an example and help her.

Kristina made it to the counseling’s services and met the assessment standards. She was allowed into the program and the state paid for her to recover. She made it through three months of inpatient treatment and was three months sober following her stay in jail.

“She looked like a completely different person by the end of it,” Matz said.

A new way forward

Matz and Kristina still talk once a month. They recently met for coffee at Planet Perk in downtown Oshkosh for the first time in over a year. They embraced and teared up. Kristina and Matz may be completely different people, but they have gone through a lot together.

Kristina finished her probation. She moved to Rice Lake, Wisconsin with her mother and oldest daughter. She regained custody of her youngest daughter. She began to put the pieces of her life back together.

Nowadays, you’ll find Kristina working in construction as a talent recruiter. She loves her job. She is making more money than she ever expected. And she’s saving that money, too. She

has goals to buy a house, a newer car and to grow her family into everything she ever wanted it to be.

Kristina’s life has come full circle. She experienced the depths of addiction, sunk to the lowest of the lows and came

out on the other side. She experienced more hardships than any person should have to take. She overcame her addiction and became the mother her children can be proud of, the mother she always knew she could be.

As a changed person, sobriety looks good on her. Her face has a glow, she is a healthy weight and although she has scars from her addiction, those scars remind her of where she has been. Kristina doesn’t look back with any desire to revisit her addiction. She recognizes that life is worth living when it is lived for her daughters and her family. She counts every day as a blessing.

“It’s never too late to change your life,” Kristina said. “I never thought I would get to where I am today, but I couldn’t be happier.”

Editor’s note: All interviews took place in fall 2019. For more information on the FIXED storytelling project, visit uwosh.edu/fixed.

She was purple; she was dead.

- Deputy Nathan Dahm

It’s never too late to change your life I never thought I would get to where I am today, but I couldn’t be happier.”

- Kristina Farina



Chancellor Andrew Leavitt shovels dirt into the Ratzburg apple tree sapling hole while Lisa Mick supports the sapling. Kaitlyn Scoville / Advance-Titan

Green Fund saves rare, dying fruit tree species

By Kaitlyn Scoville
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The UW Oshkosh Green Fund implemented one of its student sustainability projects behind the Arts & Communications Center by planting several rare heirloom apple trees on Tuesday.

There were about 200 varieties of heirloom apple trees locally, but now there are only 18 left.

“These heirloom trees are almost extinct in Wisconsin,” Green Fund student chair Sarah Kleinschmidt said. “So by planting these trees here, we’re able to actually preserve some of that genetic DNA and bring those trees back to Wisconsin and hold the important piece of history that we thought was going to be gone forever.”

This Heirloom Apple Orchard project was proposed in spring 2019

by Jasmine Lopez of the Sustainable Solutions for Tomorrow club, and was approved for \$2,414.

“The UWO Heirloom Apple Orchard will meet the UWO’s food production goals, food supply goals and education/collaboration goals,” the proposal stated. “This project supports the university’s sustainability goals, the university’s core value of sustainability and the vision of UWO as it pertains to ‘Enrichment and Leadership that emphasizes intellectual, civic, ethical, and personal development for students, faculty, and staff.’”

The proposal also said that the Heirloom Orchard would provide habitat for native arthropods, many of which serve as pollinators of wild and domesticated plants.

Dr. Marcel Dijkstra of the engineering technology department said that heirloom apples are not like the

stereotypical ones you see at the grocery store.

“In a supermarket, we’ve got like 10 to 15 varieties and they all have the same characteristics: They’re crunchy, they’re sweet, they look good, they transport well, they keep forever and that’s basically it,” Dijkstra said.

“[Heirlooms] don’t fit in a mass production system because the mass production system on these apples make them all the same shape, all the same size and they look good,” Dijkstra continued.

“This one might have one flaw, and that it doesn’t look very good. I mean, it looks nice, but it doesn’t look like what people want in an apple. And so this variety is doomed until people are like, ‘I want something that tastes a little different than just my red delicious.’”

These trees are important to pre-

serve because once its genetic material is gone, it’s gone, Dijkstra said. These trees have grown up when there were no pesticides, and that’s an important feature, that they can resist diseases.

UWO Chancellor Andrew Leavitt said that adopting this rare tree species helps solidify all three campuses as part of Tree Campus USA.

“It’s certainly part of a comprehensive approach to the beautification and sustainability of the campuses,” Leavitt said. “That’s something that we take great pride in. It’s my understanding that there are very few of these particular species of trees that are left, and we’re going to help preserve them right here.”

The Green Fund hopes to eventually have the apples of these trees available to the campus to have students pick and enjoy themselves.

By Andrew Hansen
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UW Oshkosh, along with eight other universities, were honored at the 45th annual American Association for Men in Nursing (AAMN) conference held Oct. 14-16.

This marks the third year in a row the university has received honors from AAMN, and marks the sixth award given overall.

Qualifications for the award include putting forth significant efforts in recruiting and retaining men in nursing, providing men a supportive educational environment, and educating faculty, students and the community about the contributions men have and do make to the nursing profession.

From there, the nursing school or college must produce evidence that its efforts have resulted in an increased number of men applying or being admitted into the program or note an increased retention or improvement among men in nursing.

In 2014 as well as 2019, UWO nursing professor Brent MacWilliams received the Gene Tranbarger Writing Award, in recognition of two separate pieces he wrote about men in nursing and men’s health.

Advancing Men in Nursing provides a framework for nurses to meet and discuss influence factors that affect men as nurses. In addition to this, the organization seeks to encourage men of all ages to become nurses, supports men who are nurses and advocates for the continued research and development of information about men’s health.

Other schools that received the 2020 award include John Hopkins University, Rutgers University, Duke University, Vanderbilt University, Nebraska Methodist College, Lewis University and the University of Alabama-Birmingham.

How did this police officer accidentally overdose?

FIVE

By Joseph Schulz
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Abrahamson

most like I was in a tanning bed. I thought, ‘Whoa, whoa, whoa, that’s odd,’ I got super light-headed. I was going to pass out. Something’s not right. I remembered that these are some of the symptoms of a Fentanyl exposure. I was like, ‘Holy shit, this is happening.’

“So I grabbed our squad radio, which is attached to a heavy magnet, and I couldn’t get it off the magnet. That’s how weak I was; I finally grabbed the mic and I said, ‘I’m not feeling well.’ I’m right by the Jackson Street exit, which is right by the Winnebago County Sheriff’s Office. I’m going to make it there because I know they have Narcan. At that point in time not every police department in the area was carrying

it like they do now. I knew that the Sheriff’s office had it because they had it in the jail for people overdosing in jail. I was freaking out. I still knew what I was doing, but I could tell that if I didn’t get somewhere quick, I was going to die.

“I ended up pulling into the Sheriff’s office parking lot and, by the grace of God, there was a Sheriff’s deputy at the Kwik Trip right off the Jackson Street exit that pulled in behind me. I got out. He said, ‘Hey, we have Narcan. Do you want some of this?’ And I didn’t know a lot about it at the time, so I said, ‘I don’t know, maybe I’m just overreacting.’ He said, ‘It’s not going to hurt you.’

“I was getting toward that just-let-me-fall-asleep kind of state. I was just tired. Maybe something’s going on, because I couldn’t feel anything anymore, and I just wanted to fall asleep. That’s when he gave me a shot of Narcan, and it didn’t do anything. I started slouching over, and then another deputy pulled up, gave me a second shot of the Narcan and sure enough, probably 30 seconds, 45 seconds later, I felt normal, completely fine. I could get up and walk and I could talk.

“They took me to the hospital. At the hospital, this type of overdose was new to them so they didn’t know how to go about it. I sat at the hospital for four hours and they watched me just to make sure nothing happened to me. And then I was released back home that morning. Now, all police departments are carrying Narcan.

“Having gone through that really opened my eyes to see what a major issue it is today. I guess I never understood the strength of addiction and how hard it is for people to fight that addiction day in and day out. I used to think that people didn’t want to get help and wanted to continue to use, even though they knew it would kill them. My experience has made me see that people really do want help, but the addiction is too strong at times.”

John Abrahamson has been an officer for the Menasha Police Department since 2015 after graduating from Fox Valley Technical College Police Academy. He earned his bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. All interviews were conducted in Fall 2019.

Sports

TRACK: Runners face season full of unknowns

From page 1

uncertainty of the season ahead leaves each teammate with a puzzled outlook as they refine their skills and cut down their times. The Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference has suspended all athletics from competition through Dec. 31, and this leaves a lot up in the air in terms of what kind of a season, if any, the UWO track and field team will have. “It is hard because we’re all putting a bunch of work into this season and trying to get back into shape without knowing really what’s gonna happen,” Huber said. “It’s really a toss up if we’re gonna have a season, so the pos-

sibility of not having it makes it harder.”

In terms of how those very practices are being held during a pandemic, the team is taking any and every possible precaution during practice to ensure that each runner is safe. “COVID restrictions being enforced include social distancing and wearing masks of course,” Grant said. “We also have split up our team, and we now practice in subgroups at different times to



Grant

limit the amount of people together at a time.”

On top of this, the athletes must be checked on a daily basis to ensure that they are safe to practice among others while still maintaining a social distance. “We get our temperatures taken when we walk in, and we have set zones of where we go to put our stuff and stand when our coach is explaining how practice will work that day,” Huber said.

In terms of goals for the upcoming season, the UWO runners are trying to get back to where they were when their indoor track season was cut short. Individually, each runner has their own specific goals that they are striving for as

they begin to practice for a 2020-2021 season that is full of question marks.



Huber

whole, the team also has goals set before it as it goes into the track season.

“A team goal would definitely [be] getting more people into nationals,” Huber said. “We had a good amount go this past year, but we definitely have grown as a

team, so that’s definitely exciting and an end goal.”

Some athletes, including Grant, who was heading to nationals and posted a school record time of 6.81 seconds in the 60-meter dash, see their past season’s cancellation as a way to be extra motivated for their next shot at competition.

“Considering everything that ended our previous season prematurely, I’m motivated more than ever to get back [to] where I was last season,” Grant said. “My goals are the same, but I definitely have a different fire in me to accomplish those and eventually exceed them.”



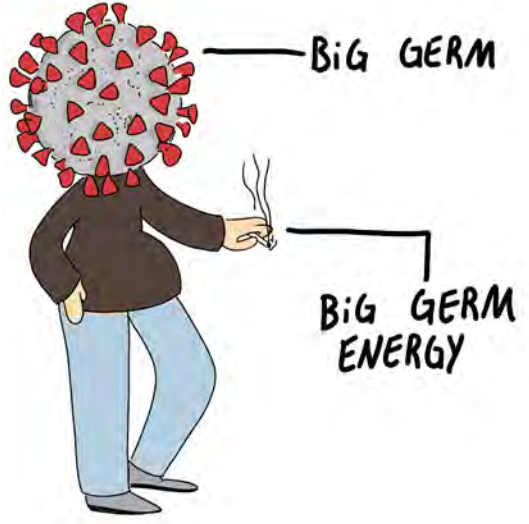
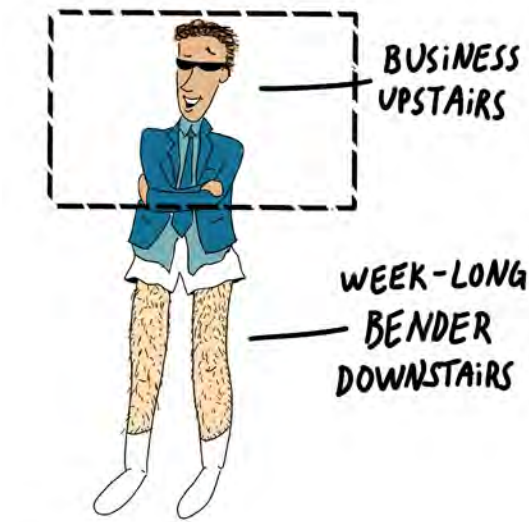
Courtesy of the UWO Track and Field Twitter

In practice, the UWO Track and Field team is splitting up into groups of 10, and these groups of runners partake in practice at different time intervals. One group will come in one set of doors at 3:15 p.m. , and the second group will come in at 4:30 p.m. from a different set of doors.



The Advance-Titan is looking for writers in our news, arts & entertainment, sports and opinion sections. Any student of any major may write for the A-T. If you’re looking for a fun way to gain experience, build your portfolio and make friends, email atitan@uwosh.edu or stop by Reeve 19, behind Titan Underground, on Tuesday production nights.

2020-themed Halloween costumes



Illustrations by Carter Usalabar
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By Owen Peterson
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The Zoom professional

One of the few bright spots of this year has been how little social interaction people are forced to do.

Even when we are forced to confront fellow humans, it is usually in the form of a virtual meeting, which means you only have to display the top half of your body.

As a consequence of this, classes, meetings, interviews and appointments have all become pants-optional affairs.

For this costume, prepare your finest suit top, a nice tie, your best pair of boxers and prepare to be really cold.

Literally COVID

For those who aren't into subtlety, this costume is perfect.

It goes without saying that COVID has defined this year, so it certainly deserves to be put in costume form, and what better way to do that than to dress up as the virus particle itself.

If anything, all the spikes on the costumes should help others keep their six feet from you.

Carole Baskin

Perhaps no piece of media garnered as much attention in 2020 as "Tiger King: Murder, Mayhem and Madness."

The eight-part documentary quickly became one of Netflix's most popular releases ever and was pretty much the only thing people seemed capable of talking about in the early parts of 2020.

For a costume, the obvious choice has to be Carole Baskin, one of the main figures in the documentary, whose distinct fashion makes for great costume inspiration.

This costume is also pet friendly, as you can get your pet to go as a tiger. Make sure to add a human arm hanging out of your pet's mouth for accuracy.

Mike Pence's head fly

Another one of the horrifying aspects of 2020, the presidential race, also deserves some recognition on this list.

One of the most infamous moments so far came during the vice-presidential debate, when a fly landed on Mike Pence's head and remained there for an astounding 2 minutes and 30 seconds.

But why did this fly stay on the vice-president's head so long? Probably because he smelled like the death of 225,000 Americans.

This costume allows you to show your political spirit by dressing up as the most likeable figure in all of 2020 politics.

Burning Koala

It really is a testament to just how godawful of a year that 2020 is that it is easy to forget that the Australian bushfires, which killed or displaced almost three billion animals, only happened this January.

While this idea definitely errs on the morbid side of things, I can't think of many things more terrifying than a cute little marsupial being overtaken by flames.

'Borat' was what 2020 needed

By Nolan Fullington
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"Borat Subsequent Moviefilm" is technically an Amazon Prime original film. Under the definition of streaming, "original" also falls under the clause of distribution if a platform doesn't produce the film, but simply distributes an independent feature. Well, it's now a *blank* "original" film. Hence why Netflix has so much "original" programming.

This sequel marks the heavenly return of Sacha Baron Cohen's most famous character, Borat, in this political romp about Borat returning to America to regain his journalistic reputation in Kazakhstan by gifting a pornographic monkey to Mike Pence. However, a certain turn of events leads Borat having to now gift Pence with his fifteen year-old daughter for marriage.

This film takes a precise aim at American politics today, exposing what Cohen described as genuine behavior when one's guard is down. Quite recently actually, I rewatched the first "Borat" and it still holds up almost fifteen years later. It's a brilliant mockumentary that showcases American culture in this uncut fashion.

After which I said, "Now more than ever, we need Borat again." Not even two days later, Sacha Baron Cohen announced that "Borat 2" was shot, edited and would be on Amazon in a month. It immediately became my most-anticipated film of the year, seeing that nothing else is coming out this year anyway.

The trailers were quite underwhelming, but let me assure you, "Borat Subsequent Moviefilm" lives up to its former. However, the issue here resides with sequels in general in that there is now this established bar of expectation. The first "Borat" was great because you didn't know who this was so the idea of this being a real documentary added a layer to the film's comedic value.

It is reminiscent of an average moviegoer seeing "Zelig," but not telling them it's a Woody Allen film. This sequel does suffer from high expectations because you are familiar with the character and your expectations are substantially higher. Given those circumstances, it's miraculous how this film remains funny, but also provides a genuine narrative, more so than the first film.

Once again, it's difficult to review a comedy without saying "this was funny and that wasn't," but "Borat Subsequent Moviefilm" had lots of laughs, but plenty of missed ones as well. However, due to the sheer amount of comedic set-pieces,

it has to be mathematically impossible not to laugh.

But the best moments were of course involving real people. There are a number of scenes that felt manufactured, but there are still those beautiful scenes where Cohen exposes this raw under-leaf of American culture and some parts were truly shocking.

However, the most appalling and disturbing is a scene with Rudy Giuliani, one that has the nation's foundation shivering, which I won't get into, but it felt like the real life equivalent of the car scene in "Eighth Grade." Now here's what makes dumb humor in "Borat" work and not "Hubie Halloween," because I'm sure many may cite my hypocriticism when it comes to perceived "dumb humor" in films.

In "Borat," there is an actual narrative that has structure here; minus all of the jokes, the film still has a functioning narrative. It also involves real people, which grounds the comedy — as opposed to "Hubie Halloween," where every character is wacky and "hilarious." You need that contrast and Cohen playing his eccentric characters is always a sharp contrast to the average people around him.

One of the many plot twists and surprises is that there is actually a story here. There is character and structure to this film's comedic set-pieces in the form of a father/daughter story. I was unsure of the daughter character for the first half of the film, but her character did grow on me as she had many great scenes of her own without the assistance of Sacha Baron Cohen.

One of the downsides of this film is that Borat is a comedy icon. When the first "Borat" came out, he was everywhere. So in this sequel, Borat can't go around in his usual grey suit, so he wears disguises. So it often doesn't feel like "Borat" as much as Sacha Baron Cohen's "Who Is America" series.

Along with politics, the film satirizes COVID-19, which leads to some twisty revelations. There are jabs at Facebook, phones and even references to the first film like the scene of Borat squatting outside Trump Tower in the last film, which ended up foreshadowing the sequel.

"Borat Subsequent Moviefilm" is certainly not as good as the former, but it lives up to its name and the hype. Out of all of the gibbering nonsense surrounding "Tenet" regarding, "This is the movie we need right now," this second "Borat" film feels more like the film we need right now, especially before an election. You can sign up for a free trial on Amazon Prime to watch the film for free.

The case for Joe Biden

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Why does Biden need to be elected? For me, it is simple: Biden represents the best opportunity to restore America's respectability on the global stage and inject morality back into our society.

Over the past four years, we have seen an uptick in racism and racial unrest, not seen in generations that has been allowed by President Trump. To think that Trump is the "Christian" President that has been "Ordained by God" according to evangelical Christian

leaders sickens me. One must look no further than Trump's personal character to see that he is not Christian As a Christian first and a ELCA Lutheran second I cannot let these things just slide by.

I don't care who you are racially, spiritually, or your preferred gender, I am supposed to love you for who you are, not who you should be. Trump, to me, does not exemplify this and needs to be voted out. I think that Biden will be a much more honest and decent President and will instill a sense of morality that has been sorely absent over the past four years.

Election Day is November 3

Wisconsin has Election Day Registration. You can still register and vote on Election Day. Get all the information you need and find your polling location at VoteAmerica.com/Students

**Vote
America**
VoteAmerica.com

To get help voting text
“helpline” to 48298.